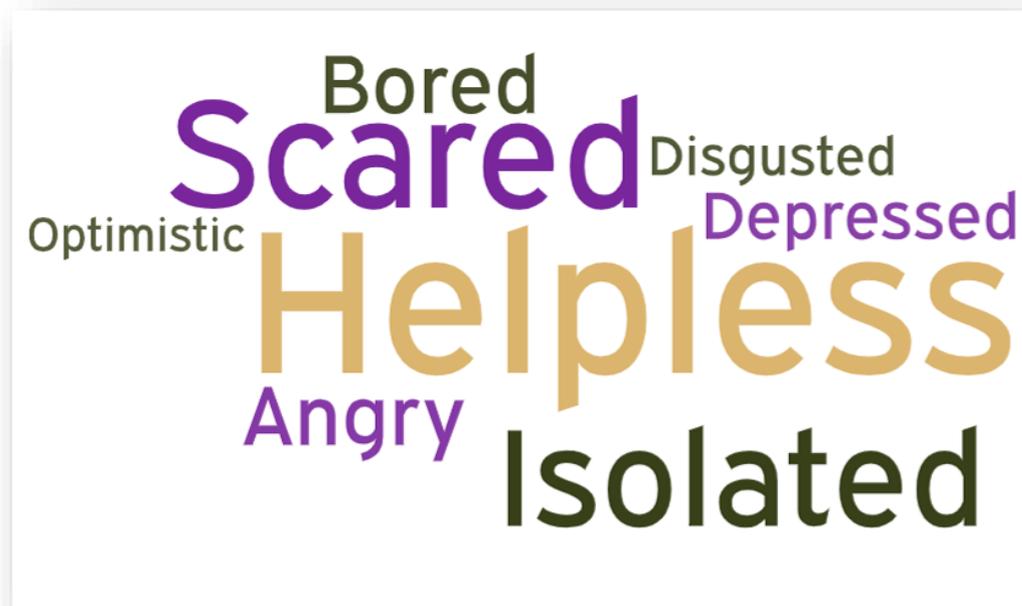


COVID-19

Australians are worried, and feeling scared and helpless - some are downright angry



27 March 2020

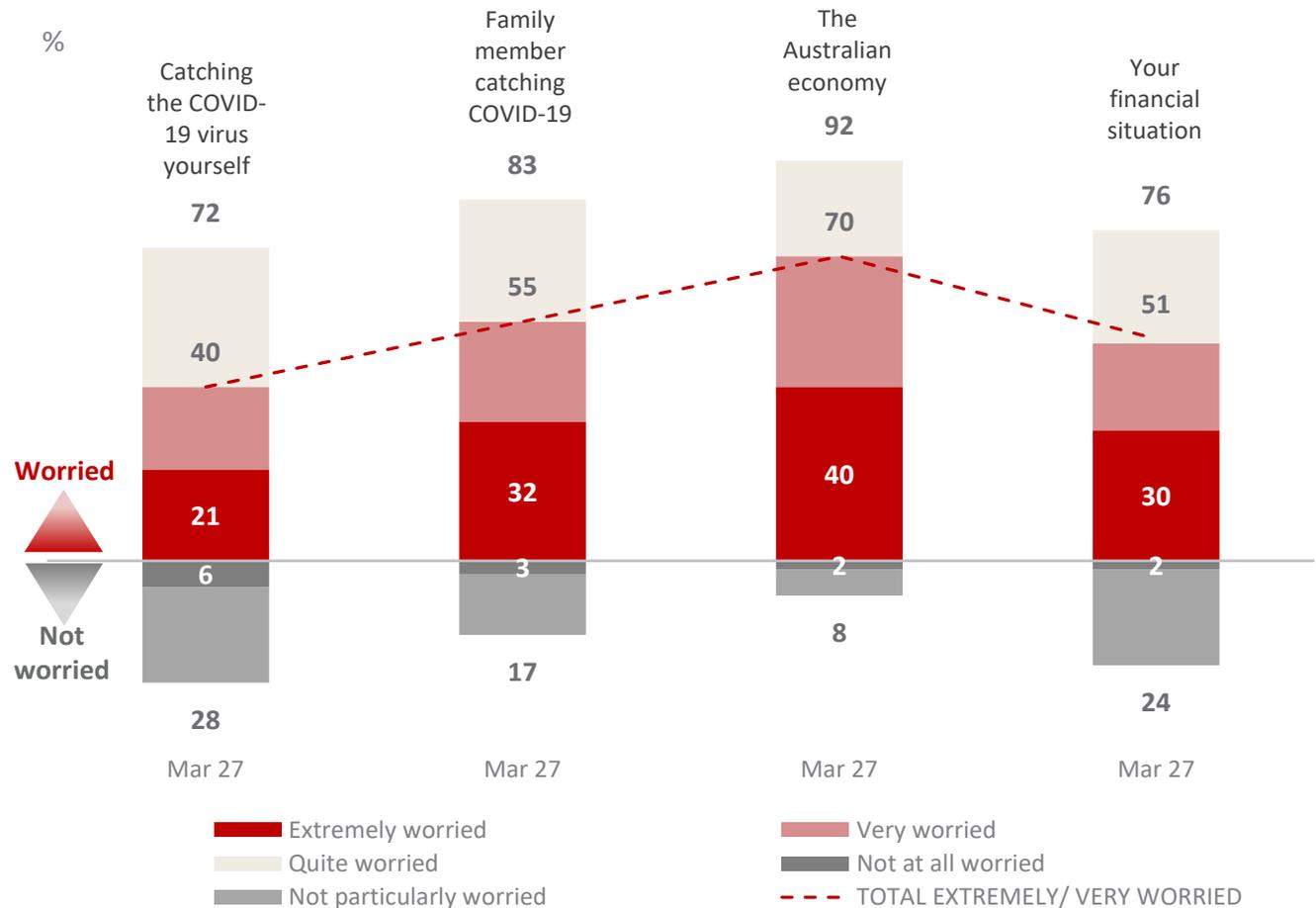
People are worried on a few fronts – but about the economy most of all

■ Most Australians are worried, at least to some degree, about they or a family member contracting the COVID-19 virus, or about their personal financial situation. However, the economy is by far the issue that is of concern to the most people: 70% are *extremely* or *very* worried about it.

■ Interestingly, people aged 55+ are no more likely than others to be extremely/ very worried about personally contracting COVID-19. However, those under 55 are more likely to be worried about their personal *financial situation*.

Methodology: Conducted nationally online over the period March 25-26, 2020 among a sample of 313 people aged 18 years and over. Results were post-weighted to reflect the population distribution for age, sex and area.

How worried or not are people about** ...

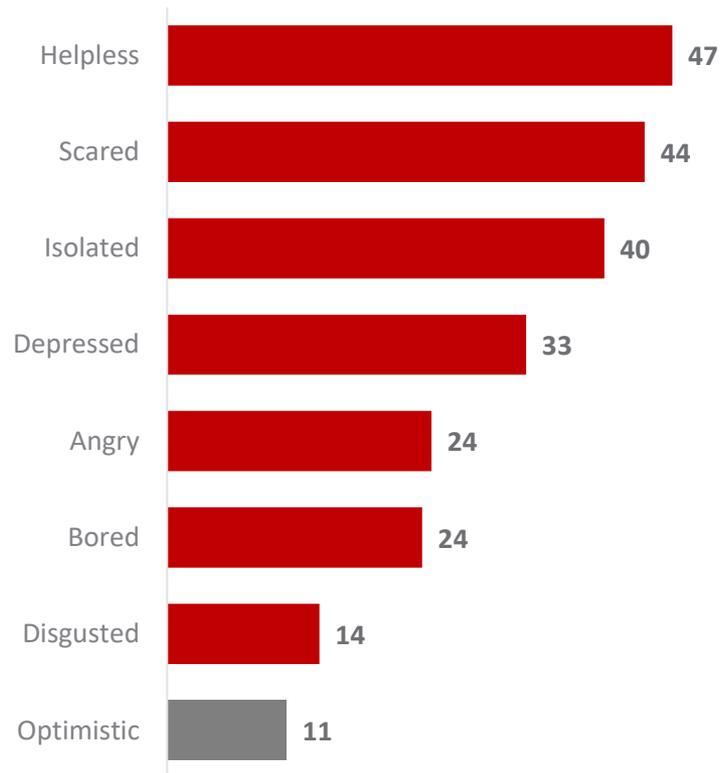


** Question: *As a result of the COVID-19 situation, to what extent are you personally worried or not about each of the following?*

The things people are *feeling*

- The COVID-19 situation is engendering a range of feelings/ emotions among Australians - with *helpless*, *scared*, and *isolated* being the most commonly felt in the past week. About a quarter are *angry*, while at this stage, relatively few have cause to be *optimistic*.

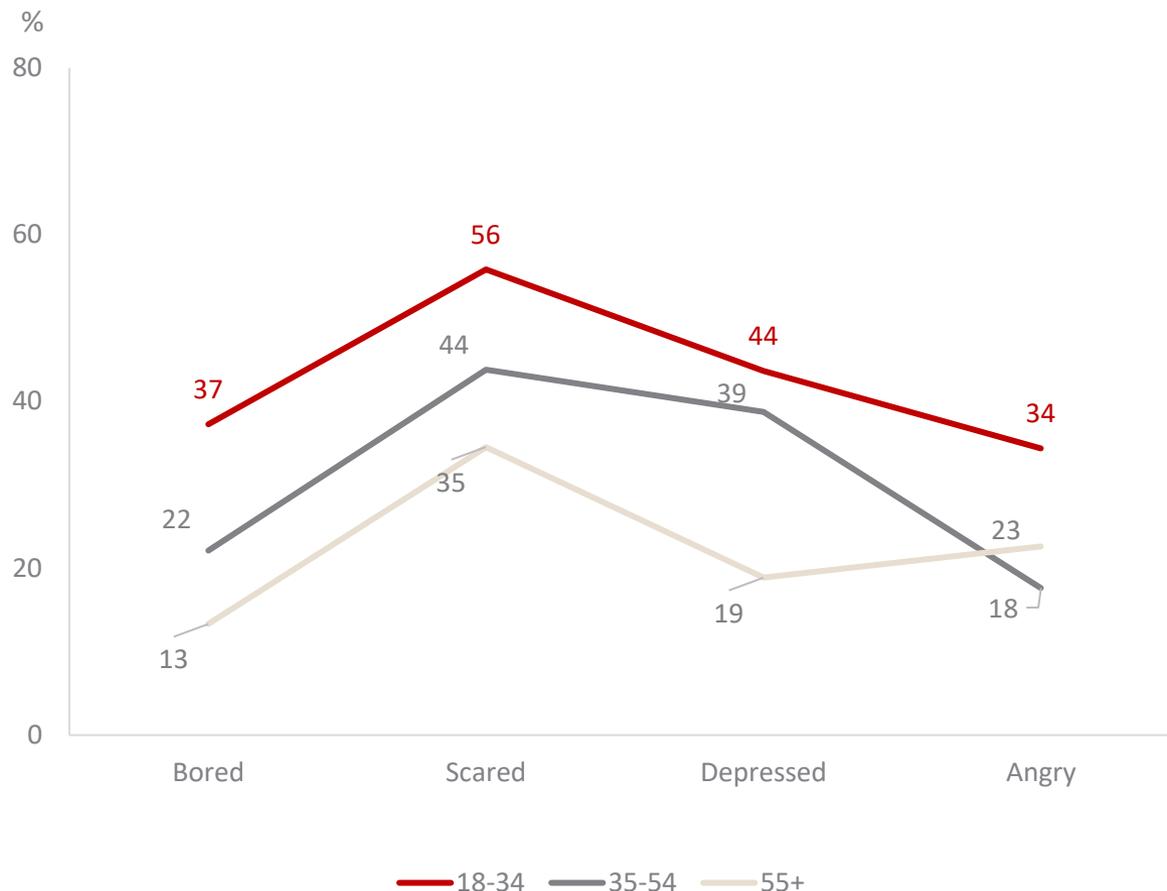
Feelings in past week because of COVID-19 situation **



** Question: The COVID-19 situation has affected Australia and Australians in many ways. In the past week, which of these have you felt because of the COVID-19 situation?

The things people are *feeling*

Feelings in past week because of COVID-19 situation **

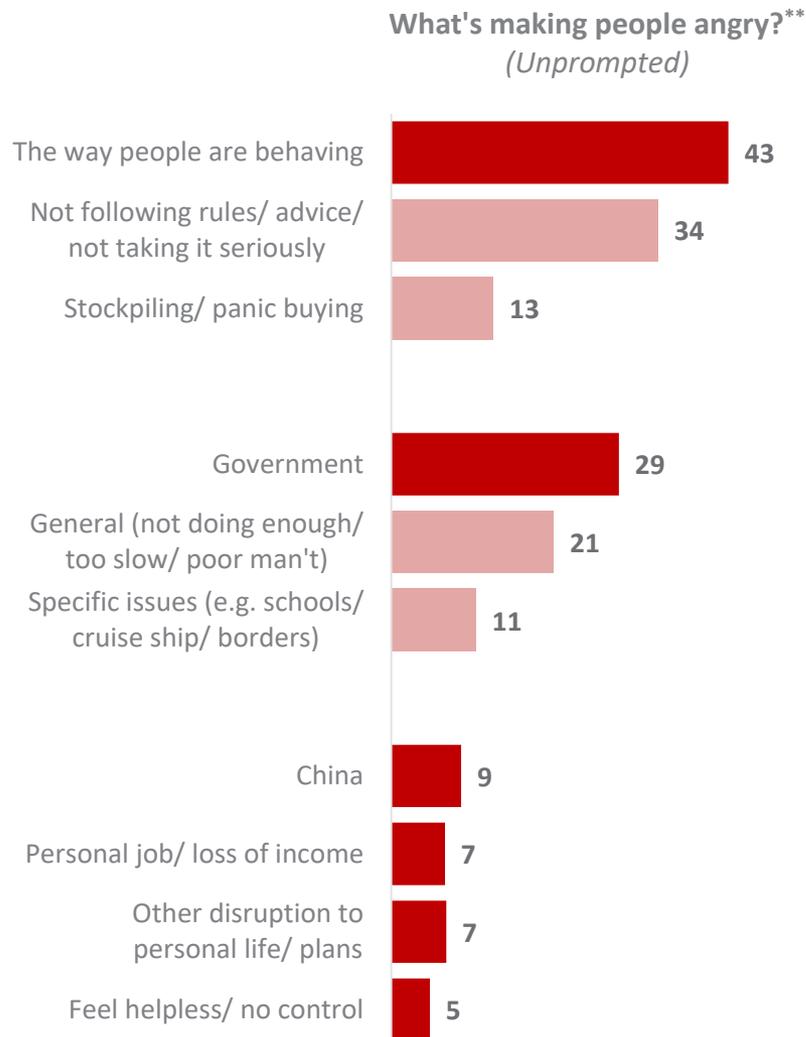


** Question: The COVID-19 situation has affected Australia and Australians in many ways. In the past week, which of these have you felt because of the COVID-19 situation?

- There is a clear contrast between the extremes of the age spectrum, with younger people under 35 being the most likely to have felt a range of emotions in the past week, while those aged 55+ are the least likely.
- In particular, many more under 35's are not only feeling *bored* (no doubt from being stuck at home!), but also *scared*, *depressed* and *angry*. At least in part, this may be because more are concerned about their financial situation.

What's making people *angry*?

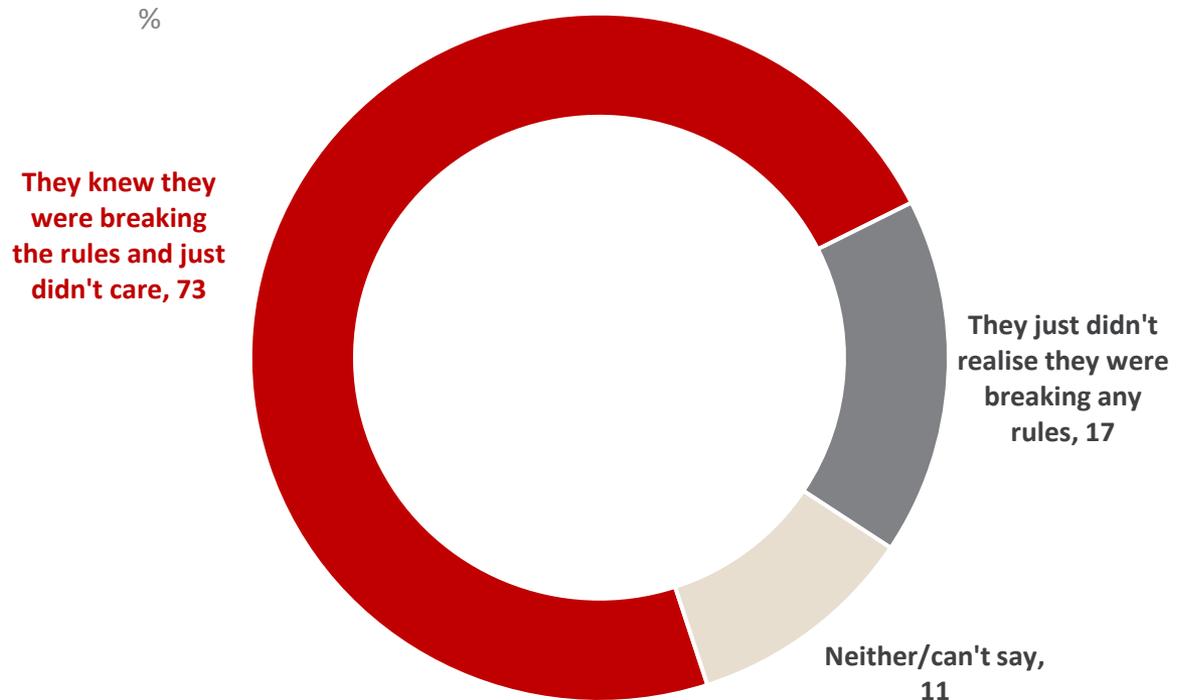
- For the one-in-four people who are angry, the most common reasons they give are:
 - **The way fellow Australians are behaving**, including (i) not following 'social distancing' and not taking the situation seriously, and (ii) panic buying.
 - **Government**: which, in one form or another, relates to being unhappy with the way governments are managing the situation.
- Other themes include:
 - **China**: for causing the problem or the Chinese government not admitting to the problem sooner and acting more quickly
 - **Loss (or potential loss) of job/ income**
 - **About life being disrupted**: not being able to go out/ do things, or specific plans being



** Question: You've said that you felt **angry** because of the COVID-19 situation. What in particular **made you feel angry**?

The people at crowded beaches/ pubs/ clubs – irresponsible or innocent?

Why did people attend crowded beaches/ pubs/ clubs against 'social distancing' rules? **



** Question: Governments in Australia have closed additional places such as some beaches and pubs/clubs because people were not observing "social distancing" rules (e.g. crowds at beaches, too many people in pubs/clubs etc).

Which one of the following **best** describes **why** you think most of those people attended crowded beaches or pubs/clubs against "social distancing" rules? Was it mainly because..?

- With excessive crowds breaching 'social distancing' rules, governments were recently forced to lockdown beaches, pubs and clubs. So why did so many people attend crowded beaches, pubs and clubs?
- A large majority of Australians (73%) believe those people mostly '*knew they were breaking the rules and just didn't care*'. Relatively few (17%) give them the benefit of the doubt that '*they just didn't realise they were breaking any rules*'.